

Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective view of a conventional surface light source device of side light type;

Fig. 5 is a cross section along line A-A shown in Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a modified composite element having a prism sheet, a polarization separating sheet and a polarization film.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23 with the following paragraph:

On the glass substrates 17, 19, transparent electrodes are formed, respectively, while the liquid crystal 18 is interposed and shut in therebetween. The LCD panel 12 provides LCD cells having a matrix-like arrangement. Each LCD cell permits a light component having a particular polarization plane to be transmitted through the cell, the particular polarization plane being rotated depending on voltage applied to the transparent electrodes of the cell.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11, with the following paragraph:

Since this embodiment employs the LCD panel 12 equipped with the polarization film 16, the prism sheet 21 is avoided from being contact with the emission face 13C of the guide plate 13. Accordingly, the emission face 13C is avoided from damaging the projections of the prism sheet 21. This leads naturally to avoidance of abnormal image which would appear when damaged projections are irradiated by illumination light L brightly.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17, with the following paragraph:

In other words, the polarization film 16 and the prism sheets 21 are unified to provide a unified composite optical element which is harder to be deformed as compared with cases where they are not unified.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 20, with the following